

Serial No. 09/652,422  
Attorney Docket No.: '100041-41082-2C  
Amendment

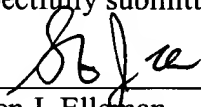
22. A slicer comprising:  
a slicer body;  
a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;  
a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;  
a motor for driving said blade, said motor being pivotable and having an output pulley  
operatively connected to said blade; and  
a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a belt passed around said output pulley  
can be tightened to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a rod, an arm  
coupled to said pulley, said arm being movable along said rod, a spring that exerts a reactive  
force against said arm when said arm is moved in a first direction along said rod, and a spacer  
~~which engages said arm to limit the advancement of said arm in said first direction.~~

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**Remarks**

Claims 2-14 and 16-18 have been amended, and new claims 21-22 have been added. Marked-up copies of the claims illustrating the changes thereto accompany this Amendment. The application has been amended to add and amend claims such that the added and amended claims are directed to a slicer including a belt tensioning device. In particular, claims 21 and 22 which are each directed to a slicer, have been added, and the preambles and dependencies of claims 2-14 and 16-18 have been amended such that those claims depend from claims 21 and 22, respectively. Claims 3 and 12 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Prompt and favorable review of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

2. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim [1] 21 wherein said rod is a threaded rod, and said member is a nut threaded onto said threaded rod.
3. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim [1] 21 wherein said pulley is located adjacent to an anchor component having an opening formed therein, and wherein said rod extends through said opening.
4. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim 3 wherein said anchor component is a wall.
5. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim 3 wherein said spring is located between said member and said anchor component.
6. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim 3 wherein said spacer is located between said member and said anchor component.
7. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim 3 wherein said first direction is towards said anchor component.
8. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim 3 wherein said spring, said spacer, and said member are located on a first side of said anchor component, and wherein the device further comprises a lock nut located on a second side of said anchor component to secure said threaded rod in place.
9. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim [1] 21 wherein said rod extends through said spring.

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10. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim [1] 21 wherein said rod extends through said spacer.

11. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim [1] 21 wherein said spacer receives said spring therein.

12. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim [1] 21 wherein said pulley is [pivotably] pivotally mounted such that advancement of said member in said first direction causes said spring to be compressed, which in turn causes said pulley to be pivoted and the tension in said belt to thereby be increased.

13. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim [1] 21 further comprising an arm having a first end and a second end, said first end being coupled to said rod and said second end being coupled to said pulley.

14. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim [1] 21 wherein when said rod includes a lever mechanism to vary the force applied upon said pulley as said member is moved along said rod.

16. (Amended) The [device] slicer of claim [15] 22 further comprising a member coupled to said rod that engages said arm and causes said arm to move in said first direction.

17. The [device] slicer of claim 16 wherein said rod is a threaded rod and said member is a nut threaded onto said rod.

18. The [device] slicer of claim [15] 22 wherein said arm includes a collar that fits around said rod.

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